

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 14, and 26 are now amended. The claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and do not introduce new subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 13-20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toye (U.S. Pat. No. 4,068,144) in view of Arakawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,270,180). Claims 8-12 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toye in view of Arakawa et al., and further in view of Speakman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,503,831). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claims 1 and 14 each recite, in part and with reference to Figure 4 and paragraph [0059] for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, that the normal drive signal and the heating drive signal are both generated by a single waveform generating section 8b. This feature is described throughout the application as filed, such as at paragraph 59. Paragraph 59 recites:

The drive signal generating section 8b generates various drive signals of predetermined shapes, namely, the normal drive signal and the heating drive signal, based on the aforesaid data for generating drive signals, then outputs the generated signals to the switching circuit 33b

(emphasis added).

The Office Action acknowledges that the Toye reference fails to disclose or alone suggest a normal drive signal and a heating drive signal both generated by a drive signal generating section, as generally recited in amended Claims 1 and 14. See November 5, 2005 Office Action at page 6.

The Arakawa et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 7, an ink jet printer having a heat waveform generating section 151 and a drive waveform generating section 152. The heat waveform generating section is separate and independent of the drive waveform generating section.

As described in the "description of the related art" section of the application as filed, which discusses the differences between the Japanese equivalent of the Arakawa et al. reference and Applicant's invention, independently providing a head drive signal and a heating signal results in a complicated circuit configuration. Using a single waveform generating section to provide both the normal drive signal and the heating drive signal, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 14, is advantageous in light of the cited Arakawa et al. reference because the complexity of the circuit configuration is reduced.

The Toye reference and the Arakawa et al. reference each fail to disclose or alone suggest wherein the normal drive signal and the heating drive signal are generated by a single waveform generating section, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 14.

Therefore, combination of the Toye and the Arakawa et al. references fail to suggest wherein the normal drive signal and the heating drive signal are both generated by the same waveform generating section, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 14.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection of Claims 1 and 14 and those claims dependent therefrom.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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